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14 October 1948

Director of Central Intelligence

Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

IM/75/Supplement: Export Shipment of Ball Bearings to Satellite Countries.

REFERENCE: Memorandum of AD/R&E to DCI, dated 11 October 1948, same subject (Im-75)

ENCLOSURES: [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

1. Additional reports received concerning the export shipment of ball-bearing-component steel balls to Czechoslovakia and Poland confirm the following:

25X9A7 a. The shipment destined for Poland, ordered from a US manufacturer by the Polish American Trading Company, was delivered by truck to C. [REDACTED] So far, no export license for this shipment has been secured, but shipments to the [REDACTED] are continuing. Inasmuch as no copy of the enclosed reports has been sent to the FBI, it is suggested that the FBI be notified of possible smuggling. 25X9A7

b. Licenses for shipment of the Czechoslovakian order were granted by the Department of Commerce. The contract executed under export license has been for about 5,000,000 steel balls, including supplies. CIA inquiries to the Commerce Department, made through interdepartmental committee channels, have elicited the information, however, that export licenses had not been granted for any one purchase exceeding a five-digit figure, which is in direct contradiction to the evidence above.

c. It is also noted that, according to the manufacturer, the license action was taken despite his own request that no license be issued for export of precision ball bearings of a type that could be used for belligerent purposes.

d. Precision bearings are under priority control in US zones abroad as well as officially in the US. Both shipments involve what would be considered a sizable quantity of precision bearings.

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25X1A9a/SI: [REDACTED] /ew NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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